



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/636,004	08/07/2003	Daniela Bourges-Waldeg	CH920010066US1	1576
IBM	7590	07/17/2007	EXAMINER	
P.O. Box 218			FEARER, MARK D	
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2143	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/636,004	Applicant(s) BOURGES-WALDEGG ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark D. Fearer	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8-11, 16 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8-11, 16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 May 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- Applicant's Amendment filed 05/07/2007 is acknowledged.
- Claims 1, 3, 8-10, and 16-17 have been amended.
- Claims 4-7 and 12-15 are cancelled.
- Claims 1-3, 8-11, and 16-17 are still pending in the present application.
- This action is made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims contain wording that offers choices, i.e., "based on at least one of message content analysis, presentability, sender and confidentiality level".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2143

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-3, 8-11 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janik (US 20020013852 A1) in view of Gibbs et al. (US 20030236917 A1).

Consider claims 1, 10, and 17. Janik discloses an electronic device, comprising interfaces for connecting output units to said device ("The system disclosed herein provides a communication connection and a content and data management system comprised of software and hardware..." paragraph 0072), a control unit for controlling the routing of messages ("System control application 18 serves the function of managing the connection between content 10 and various servers on Internet 8, and PC 34 and storage gateway 38, and also manages the flow of information between PC 34 and storage gateway 38, and client devices 78.") paragraph 0084), said messages being determined to be presented to a user of said device via at least one of said output units, said control unit being configured for: determining at least one of said output units for routing a message to based on a result of a message classification process, and routing said message to that interface serving said determined output unit

Art Unit: 2143

((“Briefly and generally, the system is used to provide a means for end users to program preference-based content for delivery at various client devices, and then to automatically or under the control of the user, send the content to client devices for presentation to the end user.”) paragraph 0027). However, Janik fails to disclose an electronic device, comprising a plurality of interfaces and a message classification process comprising analysis of messages and dynamic configuration of messages based on at least one of message content analysis, presentability, sender and confidentiality level. Gibbs et al. discloses a plurality of interfaces ((“A content analyzer receives and analyzes content to be rendered at a plurality of recipient devices against display capabilities of the respective devices.”) abstract) and a method of dynamic classification ((“The classifier 132 can be trained explicitly and/or implicitly to perform classification in terms of dynamic rendering of content.”) paragraph 0024) based on message content analysis ((“Any suitable component for carrying out the functions of the content analyzer 130 may be employed and is intended to fall within the scope of the hereto appended claims. For example, the content analyzer 130 can employ a content classifier 132, which can facilitate automatic classification of content.”) paragraph 0024).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate an electronic device, comprising a plurality of interfaces and a message classification process comprising analysis of messages and dynamic configuration of messages based on message content analysis as taught by Gibbs et al. with an electronic device,

comprising interfaces for connecting output units to said device, a control unit for controlling the routing of messages, said messages being determined to be presented to a user of said device via at least one of said output units, said control unit being configured for: determining at least one of said output units for routing a message to based on a result of a message classification process, and routing said message to that interface serving said determined output unit as taught by Janik for the purpose of dynamically rendered data.

Consider claim 2, and as applied to claim 1 above. Janik, as modified by Gibbs et al., discloses an electronic device comprising a stored look-up table ((“System control application database 96 is a set of files that contain system parameters and data.”) paragraph 0085) with classification levels being allocated to output units (“Further sub classification of content within file types or genres. For example a “music” category may be further divided into additional classifications such as “classical”, “jazz”, “pop”, “internet radio” and the like.”) paragraph 0077).

Consider claims 3 and 11, and as applied to claims 1 and 10, respectively. Janik discloses an electronic device comprising a classification unit for running said classification process for classifying to be output messages ((“Audio device content editor 24 provides the user with the ability to group audio files (tracks) into user-defined playlists, which are text association that contains a list of and paths to audio files or the URLs or IP addresses of audio streams, and are stored in system control application database 96. For example, a user may create a

Art Unit: 2143

playlist called "Classical Music" that contains ten Beethoven symphonies.") paragraph 0132). However, Janik fails to disclose a process of classifying messages. Gibbs et al. discloses a method of classifier models ("According to one aspect of the invention, the use of the SVM method is employed as the classifier 132. It is to be appreciated that other classifier models may also be utilized such as Naive Bayes, more general probabilistic dependency models referred to as Bayesian networks, decision trees, and other learning models, including hierarchically structured versions of these models, where alternate layers employ the same or a different classifiers SVM's are configured via a learning or training phase within a classifier constructor and feature selection module 132. A classifier is a function that maps an input attribute vector, $x=(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_n)$, to a confidence that the input belongs to a class—that is, $f(x)=\text{confidence}(\text{class})$. In the case of content/text classification, attributes are words or phrases or other domain-specific attributes derived from the words (e.g., parts of speech, presence of key terms), and the classes are categories of various kinds, such as for example important versus non-important content.") paragraph 0025).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a method of classifier models as taught by Gibbs et al. with an electronic device comprising a classification unit for running said classification process for classifying to be output messages as taught by Janik for the purpose of applying a proper set of rules from a large amount of instances.

Consider claims 8 and 16, and as applied to claims 1 and 10, respectively. Janik discloses an electronic device comprising an identification unit for identifying connected output units and for making control unit determine output units for routing message to ("Network Address Translation (NAT) and routing-- certain client devices 78 must be connected to the Internet 8 in real time. Core module 42 acts to connect messages and streams from client devices 78 to Internet 8, and from Internet 8 to the client devices 78. ") paragraph 0107). However, Janik fails to disclose identifying available connected output units. Gibbs et al. discloses a method of identifying recipient devices for content and determining capabilities of said recipient devices ((FIG. 8 illustrates a high-level flow diagram for modifying and/or rendering content in accordance with the subject invention. At 800, a request is received to provide and/or disseminate dynamically generated content. Recipient devices for the content are identified as well as associated capabilities (e.g., display constraints, processing capabilities) are identified at 810. At 820, a determination is made as to whether the content to be displayed in full exceeds display capabilities of the recipient device. If no, at 830, the content is rendered. On the other hand, if at 820 a determination is made that the content exceeds device capabilities, the content is modified (e.g., sub-divided, paginated, truncated, compressed) into suitable subsets for rendering at the recipient device. At 850, the subsets of content are sequentially rendered until all content is delivered.) paragraph 0048).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a method of identifying

Art Unit: 2143

recipient devices for content and determining capabilities of said recipient devices as taught by Gibbs et al. with an electronic device comprising an identification unit for identifying connected output units and for making control unit determine output units for routing message to as taught by Janik for the purpose of a communications system capable of routing messages to capable output terminals.

Consider claim 9, and as applied to claim 1 above. Janik, as modified by Gibbs et al., discloses an electronic device that is portable ("In this embodiment, client device 78 is a portable computing device referred to as a webpad 92, able to be carried around the house or within range of LAN 70.") paragraph 0197). However, Janik fails to disclose. Gibbs et al. discloses.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 7, 2007 with respect to claims 1-3, 8-11 and 16-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any response to this Office Action should be faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:

Art Unit: 2143

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from
the

Examiner should be directed to Mark Fearer whose telephone number is (571)
270-1770. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from
7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the
Examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax
phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is
assigned is (571) 273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from
the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information
for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public
PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private
PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [http://pair-
direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

Art Unit: 2143

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Mark Fearer
M.D.F./mdf
June 25, 2007



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100